

Message Text

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SUBJ: DANISH FISHERY STUDY OF BLUE WHITING SHOWS GOOD POTENTIAL

1. AN ANALYSIS OF EXPERIMENTAL FISHING FOR BLUE WHITING (MICREMESISTIUS POTASSOU, A MEMBER OF THE COD-HADDOCK FAMILY) HAS SHOWN ENCOURAGING RESULTS. THE STUDY WAS MADE FOR THE DANISH FISH MEAL INDUSTRY BY A SCIENTIST IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY CENTER OF SOTTH JUTLAND. USING THE PAIR-TRAWLING METHOD (TWO VESSELS TOWING ONE TRAWL) CATCHES AVERAGED 147 MT PER DAY. CATCHES OF 180 MT PER DAY WERE POSSIBLE WHEN A FISH TRANSPORT VESSEL WAS NEARBY TO RECEIVE THE FRESHLY CAUGHT FISH. THE STUDY SHOWED THAT A MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY CATCH OF 108 MT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE FISHERY TO BE PROFITABLE. ANOTHER FACTOR REVEALED WAS THAT THE ECONOMIC RISK COULD BE REDUCED IF FISHERMEN WOULD POOL THEIR EFFORTS BY FISHING TOGETHER IN COMPANY WITH LARGE FISH TRANSPORT VESSELS CAPABLE OF PRESERVING AND CARRYING THE CATCH DIRECTLY TO FISH MEAL FACTORIES ON THE WEST COAST OF JUTLAND.

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2. BLUE WHITING STOCKS ARE FOUND DURING THEIR MIGRATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN FROM WEST OF SCOTLAND, THROUGH FAROESE WATERS TO THE NORWEGIAN COASTAL ZONE. OTHER STOCKS OF BLUE WHITING HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED INTERMITTENTLY OFF ICELAND. ESTIMATES BY THE UNIVERSITY STUDY INDICATED THAT THE BLUE WHITING STOCK

IS POTENTIALLY 10-15 PERCENT LARGER THAN THE TRADITIONAL DANISH INDUSTRIAL FISH CATCH MADE IN THE NORTH SEA. THE STUDY SHOULD HELP DANISH FISHERMEN OVERCOME A SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, NAMELY THE COST OF BUILDING NEW VESSELS OR MODIFYING THEIR EXISTING VESSELS AND INVESTING IN THE SPECIALIZED FISHING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR THIS NEW FISHERY.

3. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT FISHING INTERESTS IN THE UK HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME AND MONEY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING BLUE WHITING AS A FOOD FISH. A FISH PROCESSING PLANT IN STORNWAY, SCOTLAND, HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH A SPECIAL BAADER FILLETING MACHINE TO PROCESS THE SMALL (29 CM.-120G. AVERAGE) FISH. A SERIES OF TASTE TESTS IN THE UK OF THE NEW PRODUCT, INVOLVING OVER 2,000 PARTICIPANTS, INDICATED A READY CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE. SHOULD THE INDUSTRIAL FISHERY DEVELOP AS EXPECTED AND JEOPARDIZE AN INCIPIENT BLUE WHITING FISHERY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, WE WOULD EXPECT PROTESTS AGAINST THE DANISH FISH MEAL INDUSTRY.
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